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THE GILDED AGE IN FORT  
WAYNE, 1870-1900



# SOCIETY IN FORT WAYNE



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# THE GILDED AGE IN FORT WAYNE, 1870-1900

Prepared by the Staff of the  
Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County  
1955

One of a historical series, this pamphlet is published under the direction of the governing Boards of the Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County.

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## FOREWORD

This publication, based on accounts printed in the Fort Wayne newspapers of the era, portrays society life in Fort Wayne between 1870 and 1900. Grammar, punctuation, spelling, and diction of quotations have been modernized.

Names have been collated with the histories and directories of the period and have been scrutinized by older residents of Fort Wayne; the Staff of the Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County appreciates this assistance. Unfortunately, some names could not be verified.

The Boards and the Staff of the Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County present this pamphlet in the hope that an account of nineteenth century society life in Fort Wayne will contribute to a better understanding of the forces that influenced our city.



Brilliant social seasons with as many as eighty receptions, parties, and balls diverted the members of the wealthy and prominent families of Fort Wayne during the last thirty years of the nineteenth century. Merchants, lawyers, doctors, and politicians had then accumulated sufficient wealth in real estate, manufacturing, merchandising, railroading, and banking to erect and furnish elaborate homes, provide sumptuous entertainments, buy costly gifts and gowns for receptions and weddings, and acquire beautiful and expensive jewelry.

Social functions were, of course, not limited to the wealthy families. Musical societies and labor unions also gave balls for members and guests--usually to raise funds for their organizations.

In the seventies, eighties, and nineties, Fort Wayne was a thriving, bustling community, where almost everyone owned his own home. The population grew from 17,718 in 1870 to 45,115 in 1900. Gas was available and had been used for street lighting since the fifties. Electricity was introduced in 1881. The first telephone was installed in the same year. Horse-drawn streetcars provided transportation since 1872. One line ran on Calhoun Street from Main Street to Creighton Avenue. One branch line continued to Fairfield Avenue and another on Wallace Street to Hanna Street. A second line ran from Calhoun and Superior streets to the Centlivre Brewery. A third line followed Columbia Street from Calhoun Street to Delta Lake in Lakeside. In 1892, when electric streetcars were introduced, the horse-car lines were sold to the Fort Wayne Electric Railway Company. Prior to 1879, when the municipal water system was begun, people depended for water on cisterns which stored the rain water from the roofs and on the artesian well in the Court House Square, which was 3,000 feet deep and 2,228 feet below sea level. For fire fighting, the fire company drew water from the Canal for downtown fires or from one of the thirty-four cisterns which had been constructed at strategic places in the surrounding districts. Only the downtown streets were paved with wooden blocks. Modern bicycles became common in the nineties. For

transportation to and from social events, people depended on the family horse and buggy or surrey, or on a rig from the livery stable.

Operettas, plays, and lecture courses furnished culture and entertainment. Ordinarily, however, people met in homes, where different guests contributed to the entertainment. Social gatherings were more formal and dignified than the cocktail or television parties of today. Dancing was the chief amusement, waltzes, two-steps, schottiches being popular. But contredanses, or square dances, were also in fashion. On dance programs quadrilles usually alternated with waltzes and two-steps. The great interest in dancing is evidenced by the fact that the FORT WAYNE JOURNAL of February 20, 1894, published detailed instructions for dancing Mr. Brenneke's variation of the german, or cotillion.

## PARTIES

Occasionally young people gave impromptu suppers in their homes or in restaurants. A reporter for the DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of January 20, 1883, found humor in a Welsh rarebit supper.

One evening last week a number of ladies and gentlemen called at a popular city restaurant and asked the handsome young bachelor in charge for . . . a plain "Welsh rarebit." The hour was late, the cook off duty, and the gallant gentleman at his wits' end. . . . after a long period of waiting, the guests were invited to partake of a dish fair to the eye but very tenacious of this life. The rarebit refused in toto to part or depart. After . . . a few exasperating little bites, the guests left it . . . with the sure conviction that the small amount devoured would abide with them the long night through. The next day the guests, with pale cheeks and bloodshot eyes, sought out the cook pro tem of the night before. After relating to the wondering and anxious host the frightful dreams of the previous night, they bade him solemnly swear to eschew the kitchen and its mystical lore for evermore.



...A SLEIGH RIDE AROUND THE CITY...

In winter, sleighing parties were popular. Occasionally guests rode in cutters or sleighs, but usually they went in large bobsleds. Some rides took the merry parties into the country. Occasionally sleighing parties ended at restaurants for refreshments and dancing, or at private homes for informal suppers and home entertainments. The DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of January 20, 1883, gave an interesting account of a sleigh ride attended by Mrs. Lillie Langtry, the famous beauty and actress known as the Jersey Lily.

Thursday evening about twenty-five society people enjoyed a sleigh ride around the city until half past ten o'clock, when the whole party repaired to the Nickel Plate Restaurant. There they were served with a luncheon of clam chowder, chicken salad, and cold meats. Immediately afterward the tables were removed as if by magic, and Mr. Jacobs furnished alluring waltzes for the "merrie companie," which did not break up until far into the "wee sma" hours. The waxed floor, the music, and the guests were all they should be; and the happy experiment will probably soon be repeated. Among those present were C. B. Woodworth and wife; Theodore Thieme and wife; Robertson J. Fisher and wife; Mrs. Tyler and Mrs. Martha Merriwether; the Misses Lou and Flora Orff, May Robertson, Daisy Myerson, Josie and Grace Edgerton, and Mary Randall; Messrs. Ed and Mont Orff, Henry Hanna, Ed Edgerton, Colonel Mumby, Samuel R. Alden, Mr. Root; and, last but not least, Mrs. Lillie Langtry, whose blond beauty and aquiline features were set off by a poke bonnet and a blue-and-gold fascinator, borrowed for the occasion.

According to the FORT WAYNE JOURNAL of January 15, 1892,

A merry coasting party left the city early last evening and glided over the snow to our suburb, New Haven. There the horses, the sleigh bells, and the frisky "bobs" were given a breathing spell, while the really jolly party partook of a dainty lunch at the New Haven Hotel. After a short time the sleigh ride was resumed. When the bobsleds reached the bachelor apartment of M. W. Fay in this city,

the party alighted and spent the evening dancing. Caterer Seidel served a menu in courses, and Reineke's Orchestra furnished light and airy strains. The party consisted of Mrs. Thomas Pierce, of Grand Rapids, chaperone; the Misses Grace Bass, Alice Woodworth, Agnes Seabrease, Alice Ward, Constance Wilder, Grace Huxford, of New York City, and Bessie Baldwin; Messrs. Robert Carnahan, Alex and McLean Seabrease, Ed Woodworth, John Morris, Jr., Mont Fay, and Harold Joss.

Taffy pulls for both children and young people were not uncommon. The DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of January 20, 1883, reports:

A small but very pleasant impromptu gathering occurred at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Max Nirdlinger, last Wednesday evening, in compliment to their guest, Miss Daisy Myerson, . . . and a taffy pulling was agreed upon. The young gentlemen worked gallantly until the golden mass was a luscious creamy white. . . . Refreshments were served, and music and dancing were indulged in until a late hour. . . . Among the guests present were Mesdames Fred Tyler, Freese, and Thorpe; the Misses Flora and Lou Orff, Mary Randall, Fannie Metheany, Katharine MacDougal, Freda Weiler, and Miss Oppenheimer; and Messrs. Ed and Mont Orff, Henry Hanna, Emmett Brackenridge, Will Tyler, Charles MacDougal, Hugh Rickhill, Frank Nirdlinger, Will Breen, and Willis Bash.

Roller skating at the Princess Rink on the corner of Main and Fulton streets was popular in the last years of the century. The young people skated, while their elders watched the skaters and the contests which were part of the evening's entertainment. Prominent men of the city judged the contests and awarded the prizes. According to the DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of July 15, 1882,

The skating rink presented a most brilliant and attractive scene. The rows upon rows of seats were filled with elegantly dressed ladies and their gallant cavaliers, each . . . in sympathy with the charming little contestants of the evening. . . . All awaited with breathless interest the decision of the judges, Messrs. Harper, Prescott, and

Hanna, three prominent society gentlemen, who awarded the skates to Miss Lida Lowry.

The champion skater and most pleasant gentleman, Mr. Estabrook, gallantly escorted Miss Lowry to the judges' stand. The young lady looked unusually pretty in her white dotted Swiss dress, trimmed in scarlet; a coquettish cap upon her head completed a most charming and bewitching costume. Miss Lida, who is very popular, received the unlooked-for honor in her unassuming manner.

On another occasion Miss Carrie Hill was presented with a pair of handsome silver skates, donated by a number of her friends. Escorted by Master Charlie Beeson, the young lady received the skates from Mr. Neeley. . . . Master Charlie's costume on the occasion was very neat and becoming. The young gentleman has won many friends by his genial, courteous manner, and his many admirers think Mr. Estabrook, the champion skater, may well look to his laurels.

In the late nineties the young people found diversion also in bicycle parties. According to the FORT WAYNE GAZETTE of May 19, 1897,

Miss Grace White entertained at a bicycle party last evening in compliment to her guest, Miss Marian Graham, of Madison. After riding to New Haven and back, the guests were served a delicious supper. The guests were Mr. and Mrs. James White; the Misses Florence Barrett, Alice Crane, and Edith Yarnelle; Messrs. Ben Woodworth, Lee J. Ninde, Hugh Keegan, Fred Smith, and Robert Hanna.

One kind of entertainment which seems strange today is a streetcar party. In 1894, however, electric streetcars were still so new that they were used to entertain guests. The FORT WAYNE GAZETTE of June 22, 1894, reported:

A delightful streetcar party was given last night by the Duodecimo Club in honor of Mrs. Deverel, who is Mrs. D. L. Harding's guest. After the ride over all the lines in the city, the club was charmingly entertained by Mrs. M. S. Mahurin. The participants were Messrs. and Mesdames A. Warriner, A. L. Randall, Frank Randall, Elwin Hulse, M. S. Mahurin, P. A. Randall, D. K. and W. Crighton,



... GALLANTLY ESCORTED MISS LOWRY ...

H. Fischer, O. N. Heaton, Thomas Duncan, Byron Thompson, J. W. Trainer, and D. L. Harding; Dr. and Mrs. B. Van Sweringen; and the Misses Luella Boles, Louise Robertson, and Abbie Keegan.

In the nineties people played euchre extensively and gave elaborate euchre parties. The FORT WAYNE JOURNAL of November 27, 1891, gives the details:

One of the most elaborate progressive euchre parties of the season was the one given last evening at Walnut Place, the suburban home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wilder . . . in compliment to Miss Hibben, of Cincinnati, who has been the guest of Mrs. Wilder for the past two weeks. The beautiful reception rooms were brilliantly illuminated for the occasion. . . . Fourteen games were played before . . . the serving of a delicious supper in four courses by Caterer Seidel. After the supper the prizes to the most successful players were awarded. Mesdames J. M. Barrett, C. E. Bond, and S. D. Bond received exquisite souvenir spoons. The spoons were engraved silver and represented Cincinnati, the home of the honored guest of the evening. Messrs. Mont Orif, J. H. Wilder, and S. D. Bond were presented the gentlemen's prizes--very smart gold scarf pins. The guests who enjoyed the pleasures of the evening were Messrs. and Mesdames J. M. Barrett, C. E. Bond, E. Evans, F. L. Smock, J. M. Kuhns, Will Evans, A. S. Bond, W. H. Watt, S. D. Bond, D. K. Crighton; Mesdames Anna Tyler and Susan Hoffman; the Misses Anna Lowry, Belle Clark, Clara F. Humphrey, Annie O. Bourie, Grace White, Bessie Baldwin; and Messrs. B. F. Harper, J. Ross McCulloch, M. W. Fay, Frank B. Taylor, Jay Dee, Mont Orif, Ed Orif, Alex Seabreeze, Charles Betts, Charles Guild, Robert Carnahan, and Harold Joss.

Numerous birthday parties, dinner parties, and house parties offered additional diversion. House parties sometimes lasted a week and on one occasion took Fort Wayne people to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The FORT WAYNE JOURNAL of November 1, 1891, reported:

Next Tuesday at Fort Hunter, about seven miles from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Mrs. John Riley will open her



... GAMES WERE PLAYED ...

house party with an elaborate dinner. The party will last about a week and will be attended by a number of people who have been accustomed to gather at the homes of different friends every spring and fall. Mrs. Riley, nee Miss Helen Boas, has often visited here. Miss Louise Carnahan will be a guest at the party. Messrs. Frank Brown and E. P. Lord, of this city, also expect to attend.

## MASKED BALLS

Halloween parties and masked balls were popular in season and received elaborate notices in the papers. In 1891, a Halloween entertainment, varied by an unusual program of classical numbers, was given at the Wayne Street Methodist Episcopal Church. In general, however, Halloween parties followed the traditional pattern. According to the FORT WAYNE JOURNAL of November 1, 1891,

A most enjoyable Halloween party was held at Wildwood, the romantic suburban home of Miss Jane Ninde. As the guests entered the carriage driveway, carved pumpkins cast their smiles and radiance here and there. The interior of the house was darkened. Only an occasional, lighted pumpkin dispelled the gloom. Voices were hushed, and all sorts of imaginary creatures mingled among the guests. Even the fireplaces talked. The cricket on the hearth lent mysterious enchantment to the scene.

Then the gloomy, quiet scene was interrupted by Halloween games. Chestnuts were named and cast into the open grates, and the future was revealed by the way the nuts burned. The young ladies walked down the stairs backward and beheld their fates in a mirror. A walk over the wooded lawn alone in the dark often ended in a frightful scream. The fortune telling was very skillful and accurate. The corpse scene arranged by City Attorney W. H. Shambaugh and Mr. B. F. Harper was appalling. A dainty luncheon served at eleven o'clock afforded an excellent opportunity for a discussion of the fortunes forecast by the various omens and by the fortune tellers. A dance in the parlor and hall concluded the festivities. Those present were

Miss Louise Breck, of Cleveland, Ohio, and the Misses Thyra and Elizabeth Schioler, Helen Moffat, Fannie Hartman, Gertrude Laubach, Grace White, Louise Robertson, Anna Siboni, Lilla Pyke, Mary Randall, Nora Hamilton, and Kate MacDougal; and Messrs. W. H. Shambaugh, H. W. Ninde, Robert Carnahan, B. F. Harper, Seymour Boyd, Irwin Randall, Gustave Detzer, Jay Dee, Howard McCulloch, John R. McCulloch, and Frank Taylor.

At the approach of Lent, organizations like the Hanna House Social Ten, the Ladies' Hairdressing Club, the Arion Society, and the Saengerbund sponsored masked balls in imitation of the Mardi Gras celebration of New Orleans. One of the gayest and most elaborate of these balls was given on January 19, 1881, by the Arion Society, a musical organization. An orchestra of eighteen pieces, under the direction of August Scheufler, furnished the music for the grand march, the special choral numbers, and the dancing, which featured waltzes, quadrilles, schottisches, and mazurkas. The grand march was led by Louis Schirmeyer, master of ceremonies, and Joseph Storm, president of the society. Next Miss Agatha Lau, holding a guitar and seated in a sedan, was borne into the hall by four stalwart Bohemians. A gaily attired bear drew a two-wheeled vehicle, in which rode a lady dressed in a flashy costume. Then followed the members of the society and their guests, in costumes representing various nationalities and such comic characters as Rip Van Winkle, The Lone Fisherman, The Confectionery Girl, and The Man with a Big Head. The members of the society rendered some fine choruses. The most ambitious was the "Anvil Chorus," which was accompanied by the orchestra and four anvils, hammered by John Reuss, Peter Nussbaum, Fred Schmueckle, and Julius Ernst. Miss Agatha Lau sang a German song, the Arions joining in the chorus, while the orchestra, which had been stationed in an adjoining room, produced an echo. At twelve o'clock the dancers unmasked. Miss Annie Schmueckle in full Swiss costume produced a sensation by her excellent impersonation of a Swiss maiden. The costumes for the occasion were imported from Chicago.

Most famous, however, were the annual masked balls, first sponsored in 1876 by the Fort Wayne Saengerbund, a German singing society. They became an institution in the social life of Fort Wayne and were eagerly awaited from year to year. The DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of February 22, 1882, gave the following account of the sixth annual ball:

At eight o'clock the Mardi Gras procession, headed by the city band, started from the Saengerbund Hall. Following came the carnival band, led by Herr Professor Strodel, E. S. (Ear Splitter), with his attendant inharmonious fiends, including Nick Schlueter, George M. Fordney, C. Sheldon, George Frieztzsche, Rine Caps, Steve Schnurr, Frank Rahe, Al Robbe, Chris Schaefer, and others. Behind, a motley crew of maskers on foot and on horseback sounded an alarm on tin horns. A number of homemade contrivances, including an elephant, which was so natural he might have joined Barnum's herd, and a float bearing the King of Carnival, popularly supposed to be Fritz Schmueckle, were in the procession. Into the Academy of Music poured a stream of merrymakers in fantastic costumes, partially hidden from view by ulster and cloak. The auditorium was well filled upon the arrival of the procession. It is estimated that over two hundred couples were on the floor. A large crowd of spectators filled the back seats and the gallery. Reineke's Orchestra of twelve pieces was stationed on the stage, and their fine playing of the dance selections was frequently complimented during the evening.

The program of twenty-four dance numbers was followed by supper at twelve o'clock and by a song from the Saengerbund. After the song, the dancers unmasked and surprised each other by the completeness of their disguises. The costumes, which were furnished by Miche of Cincinnati, produced a motley scene. French counts mingled with members of the Prussian Landwehr; peddlers, with wenches; lions, with lambs. Oscar Wilde went arm in arm with Sullivan, the pugilist, while a sanctimonious Quaker beamed upon a chorus girl. Hundreds of similar incongruities, to be seen only at a masked ball, made the ball a gala affair.



...A BRILLIANT AND FANTASTIC MASKED BALL ...

Ten years later a brilliant and fantastic masked ball was given at the Princess Rink to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the organization of the Saengerbund. Mr. A. Steinmann, assisted by eight couples who had been previously drilled, led the grand march, in which three hundred couples, attired in most fantastic costumes, participated. According to the FORT WAYNE JOURNAL of March 2, 1892,

Nearly all classes in social and business life were represented in the disguises. One man blossomed out with hayseed in his hair, a straw hat on his head, and a calico necktie on his red shirt. A bride in snowy white, in a fluffy mass of flowing veils, with a wreath of orange blossoms in her hair, made a striking contrast to the Queen of Night, who was dressed in sable robes of tulle that fell around her like dark shadows and were relieved only by gathered stars and crescent moons. A well-padded German doctor walked around with spectacles, satchel, and pills, patting his corpulence and looking for sick people to practice on. A baker, whose nimble fingers had probably molded the loaves which were being demolished by the hungry merrymakers, was dressed in a white cap, with jacket and trousers to match. There was every conceivable variety of clown, and their capers measured up to the usual standards.

Several soldiers offered protection by their presence. One soldier wore the colonial costume of Revolutionary times; another was a gray, grizzled veteran of the Grenadiers, who went onto the floor with the vigorous step of long military service but in the crowd soon acquired a limp and a cane. An old Indian chief attended in full panoply of war paint, blankets, and feathers. He inspired terror with a gun; and his daughter, a princess, carried a long Indian bow and looked very ugly, although romance and history tell us that Indian princesses are always exceedingly beautiful.

With the beginning of the music, the dancers flocked upon the floor, and the great space was transformed into the fantastic scene of a masquerade ball. Devils and knights paid court to milkmaids and maids who represented no particular characters. Grim skeletons talked as wisely as

babies. Stately women, whose dresses flowed around them in rivers of white, chatted with clowns and kings with equal graciousness.

## WINTER FESTIVITIES

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day always were occasions for celebrations. Shortly after sundown boys began to shoot out the old year and kept shooting until they had ushered in the New Year. Serious folk attended New Year's Eve watch-night services in the churches. Others spent New Year's Eve dancing at the many balls. On New Year's Eve of 1873, the German Society gave a hop in Ewing's Hall at the corner of Main and Harrison streets. Reineke's band furnished the music. The dancing continued until three o'clock in the morning. In 1891, Friendship Lodge, No. 70, a member of the International Union of Machinists, gave a New Year's Eve ball at Randall Hall.

Balls were given also on the evening of New Year's Day. The DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of January 2, 1874, reported:

Last evening a ball was held in Ewing's Hall for the benefit of John Kennick, who unfortunately has lost the use of his eyes. He lost one eye in boyhood when he was stabbed with a pitchfork. A short time ago, while he was driving a nail with a hammer, the nail flew into his only eye, and the poor fellow became totally blind. For his benefit Messrs. Ed Driscoll, James Summers, William Gearry, James Wolf, and other citizens got up the ball which was held last evening. Music was furnished by the Ben Nave String Band. Among influential citizens present, we noticed Sheriff Hance, County Treasurer Ring, Deputy Treasurer Horton, Marshal Kelly, and Deputy McCann. Several hundred dollars must have been the financial result, for there were over a hundred couples present and a large number of men without partners.

In 1874, leading citizens paid formal New Year's calls. But the abuses which sprang up caused them gradually to abandon the custom. The DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL

of January 2, 1883, satirized these evils. The SENTINEL reporter, dressed in a paper shirt, ornamented with a one-dollar diamond stud, and a dress coat rented from a dealer in secondhand clothing called at a home on West Berry Street. Above the rustle of the silk dresses of the hostesses and the clink of champagne glasses, he heard the piping voice of a young man who earned eight dollars a week in a Calhoun Street store.

"Now, hee! hee! my dear Mrs. ----, now really you know, the compliments of the season. Ah, yes, positively; I don't mind if I do. But you know--hee! hee!--that I've got so many places to call, and I'm liable to get giddy. Hee! hee! Good day, and many happy returns." Whereupon the young bouncer jostled two millionaires, who were quietly waiting to greet the hostess, and swaggered out. When such cads became common, going from house to house in groups of four to save hack charges, gormandizing on food and drink, gentlemen stopped making formal New Year's calls.

In December, 1893, the Benevolent Order of Elks gave a "brilliant and enjoyable banquet" at its hall, followed by a literary and musical program and festivities lasting till midnight. Two hundred guests attended. During the meal, the Toastmaster, Senator Bell, summoned member after member and fined each one for alleged infractions of the rules. The fines, totaling about eighty dollars, went into the charity fund, which was divided equally between the Ladies' Relief Union and the Santa Claus Fund of the NEWS.

The Jewish people entertained the guests who came to Fort Wayne to attend their Grand Lodge with a concert, a banquet, and a ball. The DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of January 27, 1883, gave a flamboyant account of the events.

Much interest was manifested in the appearance of Emma Falk and Agatha Lauferty, both of whom sang charmingly. Miss Falk . . . was encored loudly and persistently and gave some very beautiful ballads in response. . . . Miss Lauferty's voice presents a high degree of cultivation, and so enthusiastic were her friends that she was scarcely permitted to retire. Miss Freda Weiler's numbers were a feature of the program. Master Herman Freiburger, a lad



... GAVE SOME VERY BEAUTIFUL BALLADS...

of fourteen, played the violin; he was accompanied on the piano by his sister, Miss Hattie. Mr. Friend, a comedian, was also on the program. From six until eight o'clock carriages were rushing in every direction, depositing their fair freight at the grand entrance of Library Hall, which was ablaze with light, warmth, and beauty. The orchestra, four hundred guests, the rows of wine bottles--all suggested a Continental watering place. After the guests had regaled themselves physically on the elaborate menu, and mentally on the speeches and elegant toasts, they were speedily transferred to the Academy of Music (formerly the Princess Rink) for the grand ball, where Mr. Mahler most effectively conducted the dancing. The grand march was led by Miss Freda Weiler and Mr. Lohman. After its intricate figures, the ball was opened and continued without interruption until three o'clock in the morning. The toilettes of the ladies were rich and gorgeous, and in the latest mode.

Unable to afford a carriage for all the social events, the young men sometimes hesitated to escort young ladies. So the girls took steps to remedy the situation. According to the DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of October 7, 1882, they

acknowledge that eighty entertainments averaging \$1.50 for two this winter, not to mention two lecture courses, will tax the pocketbooks of their generous knights without other extra attention. Forthwith they organize themselves into a "No Carriage Club." They are going to adopt a badge a yard long so that it will not escape casual observation; upon this badge, in big capitals, shall be N. C. E., meaning "No carriage expected." Many fair fingers are busy embroidering the magical letters on a blue satin ribbon to be worn knotted on the left shoulder.

Evidently the young ladies thought a live dog better than a dead lion.

## CLUBS

Before the end of the century, a number of women's clubs flourished in Fort Wayne. In 1892, many of these

clubs banded together to form the Women's Club League, which worked for civic improvements. One of its first projects was to establish a public library. The following item from the FORT WAYNE JOURNAL of February 20, 1893, is interesting in this connection.

The CHICAGO-EVENING POST contains the following complimentary notice of the women's clubs of this city. "Fort Wayne does not yet have a public library, but the women's clubs of that city are working hard to obtain one. They have petitioned the mayor and the council for the use of a vacant room in the city building to be used as a depository of books while the books are accumulating and until better quarters are obtained. The banded women are known as the Women's Club League."

On September 21, 1894, articles of incorporation for the League were filed by the following officers: Mrs. Sara (D. N.) Foster, president; Mrs. Elizabeth M. (Charles M.) Dawson, vice-president; Mrs. Minnie (Alexander S.) Laufferty, secretary; Mrs. Isabella D. (John) Evans, treasurer. The following were listed as directors: Mrs. May (A. F.) Warriner, Duodecimo Club; Mrs. Essie P. (W. H.) Myers, Morning Musical Society; Miss Merica Hoagland, Parliamentary Coterie; Mrs. Ella S. (James) Wilding, Saturday Club; Mrs. L. C. (G. B.) Woodworth, We Are Seven Club; Miss Agnes Hamilton, Students' Art League; Miss Clara Zollers, Tuesday Morning Culture Club; Mrs. Ellen S. McGrath, Unity Club; Mrs. Sara P. (David N.) Foster, Wednesday Club; Mrs. Georgiana (Charles E.) Bond, Woman's Reading Club. The main reason for the incorporation of the League was to empower it to hold and administer property. In 1925, the Women's Club League became the Fort Wayne Woman's Club.

Another organization, still flourishing, which contributed much to the social and cultural life of the city, was the Fortnightly Club, organized toward the end of 1892. The suggestion to organize a club devoted to the discussion of serious topics and open to both husbands and wives came from Mrs. Charles Redway Dryer. She and Miss Jane Ninde drew up a list of people who were invited to organize

the club as charter members. Among them were the Honorable Lindley M. Ninde and his daughter, Jane, Professor and Mrs. Charles Redway Dryer, Mrs. Lida Lowry Brannon, Professor Chester T. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. August Detzer, Miss Merica Hoagland, the Honorable Robert S. and Mrs. Taylor, the Honorable Robert Lowry, the Reverend and Mrs. David W. Moffat, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Jacobs, Dr. Miles F. Porter, Dr. and Mrs. William H. Myers, the Honorable Allen and Mrs. Zollars, Colonel and Mrs. R. S. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Ellison, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Worden, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ninde, Professor and Mrs. Melvin A. Brannon, the Reverend W. H. MacFarland, the Misses Josephine Large, Minute Anderson, Anna Lowry, Margaret MacPhail. In the early years memberships were limited to twenty-five, husband and wife counting as one. Later the number of memberships was raised to one hundred.

Professor Charles R. Dryer drew up the first constitution. The first officers were the Honorable Lindley M. Ninde, president; Mrs. John H. Jacobs, vice-president; Mrs. Lida Lowry Brannon, secretary-treasurer. The roster of presidents up to 1900 includes John H. Jacobs, Margaret MacPhail, Chester T. Lane, Alexander Johnson, and Miles F. Porter.

The first meeting of the Club took place at Wildwood, the home of Judge Lindley M. Ninde. The custom of meeting at the homes of members has continued to the present day. On May 12, 1894, the first social reception was given by Mr. and Mrs. Clark Fairbank at the Randall residence on East Berry Street, now the site of the Bell Telephone Company of Indiana. "The spacious parlors," according to the FORT WAYNE GAZETTE of May 12, "the scene of many pleasant social events, were brilliantly lighted" and profusely decorated with "lilies of the valley, carnations, tulips, ferns, and potted plants." The nine members of the club who during the previous week had attended the convention of literary clubs at Indianapolis were guests of honor and presented papers on the topics discussed at the convention. Mrs. M. A. Brannon spoke on the "Organization,

Conduct, and Working of Clubs"; Miss Merica Hoagland, on "English Romance and Wordsworth"; Mrs. Allen Zollars, on "The Relation of Magazines to Literature"; Mr. T. E. Ellison, on "The Methods of Dealing with the Submerged Tenth"; Mrs. Alice P. Dryer, on "Friendship in Letters"; and Mrs. O. N. Guldlin, on "The Literature of History." Mrs. T. E. Ellison read a paper on the growth of grand opera, which was illustrated by musical numbers by Mrs. W. H. Ninde, Mrs. Theodore Ruhland, the Misses Moeller, and Miss Clara Zollars. A course luncheon concluded the evening.

The first banquet was given at the Wayne Hotel, May 11, 1896. At the head of the menu was printed the following quotation from Thomas Hood:

Pallas, take away thine owl,  
And let us have a lark instead.

At the second annual banquet, May 18, 1897, the gentlemen entertained the ladies at a nine-course dinner at the Wayne Hotel. The program lists the following toasts:

Coenaturi Salutamus . . . . .

Mr. Alexander Johnson, Toastmaster.

"Now, good digestion wait on appetite,  
And health on both."

Our Gentle Dames . . . . . Judge R. S. Taylor.

"They puts things into gen'l'm'n's heads as they  
never dreamed of."

Our Public Library . . . . . Mr. S. M. Foster.

"It adds a precious seeing to the eye."

Hoosierdom . . . . . Dr. M. F. Porter.

"Oh wonderful, wonderful, and most wonderful,  
wonderful! and yet again wonderful, and after  
that, out of all hooping!"

Fools . . . . . Mrs. Laura S. Detzer.

"Thou little thinkest what a little foolery governs  
the world."

"Here we will sit and let the sounds of music  
creep in our ears."

Our Rivers and Our Wells . . . . Dr. W. H. Myers.  
    "The water nectar, and the rocks pure gold."  
The Wheel . . . . . Mr. Harry Wise.  
    "The Whirligig of Time brings in his revenges."  
Our Ex-Presidents . . . . Miss Margaret MacPhail.  
    "'Tis pleasant through the loop-holes of retreat  
    to peep at such a world."

After the regular meeting, impromptu talks were given by Professor Chester T. Lane and the Reverend Samuel Wagenhals. Mrs. D. W. Moffat read an original whimsical parody on James Whitcomb Riley's poem, "The little town of Taiholt's good enough for me."

Other clubs, some large, some small and informal, also contributed to the social life of Fort Wayne. The Hanna House Social Ten gave a gay masquerade party in 1883, and the Wit and Wisdom Club entertained with a card party of progressive hearts at the home of Mrs. J. C. Downing in 1897. The Red Ribbon Club, so called because the young men wore a red ribbon as a boutonniere, gave a soiree, or evening party, for the families and guests of the club members at the home of Colonel and Mrs. Robert S. Robertson. According to the DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of December 2, 1882,

The brilliantly illuminated parlors presented a lovely picture. Dainty little ladies in pretty toilettes and manly young men carrying themselves with all the dignity and gallantry of twenty-odd years. . . . Miss Lottie Lowry danced the "Fisher's Hornpipe" with a vim and chic that took her little audience by storm. Miss Grace Bass delighted her friends with the slow and graceful movement of "Roxy O'Moore." Later Miss Clara Bond and Miss Lottie Lowry danced the Highland fling very prettily. Supper was served at half past ten o'clock. Soon afterward the young guests began to depart, and the older ones entered into the festivities of the evening. . . . Among the older guests present were Mr. and Mrs. John Bass, Mr. and Mrs. John Olds, Mrs. R. Fisher, Mrs. Lowry, wife of Judge Lowry, and a handsome young bachelor who shall be nameless.



...DANCED THE HIGHLAND FLING...

Another club, noted for its pleasant receptions, charming card parties, and other social activities was The Twelve. One of its most elaborate social affairs was, according to the FORT WAYNE JOURNAL of February 26, 1892, "the dinner given last evening by Miss Alice Hamilton, assisted by Miss Agnes Hamilton, at the home of the Honorable Montgomery Hamilton." The guests gathered in the reception room, which was aglow from a "romantic log fire and the mellow rays of light from candelabra" and was profusely decorated with flowers. In the dining room "delicate ropes of smilax encircled the table. Fragrant jonquils were clustered here and there. Roses and carnations lent fragrance to the scene. The guests were congenial conversationalists. The costumes of the ladies added charm to the occasion."

## RECEPTIONS

Receptions for various occasions added to the social life. In 1882, the Misses Keil, of West Water Street, gave a combined church social and farewell reception in honor of Miss Garvin, who was leaving to serve as missionary in Japan. On September 16 of the same year, friends gave a farewell reception for Miss Lida Lowry, who was to attend Mrs. Sutton's Boarding School for Young Ladies in West Philadelphia. On September 30, 1882, the young ladies of society gave a pretentious reception for the young men of society at the home of the Honorable Franklin P. Randall. The Misses Mary Randall and Jessie Hanna received the guests at the entrance to the parlors. A canvas spread covered the floor for the dance program of twenty numbers with many extras. From a secluded corner, a gentleman urged the dancers on with energetic calls of "Swing your partners." At about eleven o'clock an elegant supper was served in the dining room.

A formal reception usually ushered in the post-Lenten social season. Mrs. Lavinia Bond and her daughter, Mrs. Clara B. Pierce, gave such a reception on the afternoon and evening of March 28, 1894. Their home, Walnut Place,

on Fairfield Avenue, was decorated with palms, ferns, potted plants, and carnations. The hostesses, assisted by Mrs. Stephen Bond and Mrs. W. H. Watt, received about one hundred and fifty guests. In the dining room, decorated in yellow and pink and illuminated by yellow-shaded lamps, Mrs. J. W. Barrett and Miss Anna Bond, assisted by Miss Florence Barrett and Miss Sadie Rockhill, served the refreshments, which had been provided by Caterer Seidel. The evening reception lasted from nine to one o'clock; the forty-one guests enjoyed a dance program of fourteen numbers, for which Reineke's Orchestra, concealed behind a screen of palms and ferns, furnished the music. A supper at eleven o'clock concluded what the FORT WAYNE SENTINEL called "the first dancing party of the season."

On April 9, 1896, Mrs. L. O. Hull held an elaborate reception to mark the debut of her daughter, Clara. The home was richly decorated and brilliantly illuminated by electric lights. In the reception hall, wild smilax was wreathed about the ceiling, the mirror, the archways, and the Moorish stairway. Butterflies and birds nestled in the greenery. The air was fragrant from the profusion of roses, carnations, and other cut flowers. Miss Jessie Reitze met the guests in the reception hall. Mrs. Hull and her daughter, assisted by Miss Stella Van Sweringen, received the guests in the dining room, where Mrs. W. W. Olmstead, assisted by the Misses Della Rossell and Clara Hull, served refreshments at the ice table from under a canopy of smilax draped from the chandelier to the corners of the table. Hostesses in Japanese costumes served tea in the Japanese Room, so called because it was decorated with scenes from Japan. At the time it was customary in pretentious homes to decorate one room with scenes from a foreign country and name the room for the country. Dutch and Japanese rooms were most popular.

### THE BASS RECEPTION

Most elaborate of all the receptions in the last thirty years of the nineteenth century was the reception on De-



THE SCOTCH GAME OF CURLING PLAYED



ON THE LAKE AT THE BASS ESTATE

cember 11, 1890, for five hundred guests of the older generation--the younger group being excluded--at the Bass home, Brookside, now part of St. Francis College. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bass, assisted by Miss Laura Lightfoot, received the guests. The FORT WAYNE GAZETTE of December 12, 1890, described the mansion and reception.

Yesterday afternoon and evening, from four to seven and from nine to twelve, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bass, were at home to a very large circle of friends in their elegant suburban residence. The home is palatial in design, finish, and decoration. The grand entrance hall, amply lighted, is a fit introduction to the home. The floors are of encaustic tile (tile decorated with clays inlaid and fired) partly covered with immense carpets. . . . The carved mantels and the doors of beautiful woods in their natural color are highly polished. The ceilings are beautiful in design, and the walls are adorned with choicest pictures and handmade tapestry. The furniture is upholstered in modern styles. Rich and rare bric-a-brac, curios, and works of art abound. A broad, winding stairway, with a fine balustrade of carved wood and with beautiful bronze figures on the landing, leads to the second story. Profuse and artistic clusters of cut flowers, orchids, palms, and ferns made the residence seem like fairyland. The large dining room was elaborately decorated with potted plants and roses. In the center was a table on which was laid a large mirror framed in flowers; on the mirror a ship of cut flowers created the illusion of a water scene.

The spacious drawing room with its rich carpet of cream and gold was the center of attraction. Here, under the brilliant rays of the incandescent light that had been softened by artistic shades, each guest was most cordially welcomed. The thoughtful solicitude of the host and hostess for the comfort and enjoyment of their guests made the evening one of unalloyed pleasure.

Two days later, the FORT WAYNE GAZETTE brought a detailed account of the outstanding gowns and jewels worn by the ladies:

Mrs. J. H. Bass--cream corded silk embossed with



HOSTESSES IN JAPANESE COSTUMES...

roses, point lace draperies en train, décolleté; magnificent diamond necklace and pendant, bouquet of crimson roses.

Miss Grace Bass--Nile-green embroidered mousseline de soie.

Miss Lightfoot--garnet velvet made with demitrain and décolleté bodice, duchesse lace; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. Charles McCulloch--handsome white corded silk made décolleté, gold jeweled passementerie; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. H. G. Olds--yellow mousseline de soie and yellow satin en train, square corsage, jeweled trimming; rare diamond ornaments.

Mrs. R. T. McDonald--exquisite toilette of pink crepe de Chine en train, sleeveless décolleté bodice of pink embossed silk; brilliant diamond necklace and pendants.

Mrs. C. B. Woodworth--cream silk combined with crepe, bodice of gold passementerie and crepe, décolleté; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. Watt--green silk with silver trimmings, long train, round neck, sleeveless.

Mrs. Win Bash--cream white faille and tulle, gold trimmings; diamonds.

Mrs. A. S. Bond--red crepe, black feather trimming; pendant of pearls and diamonds.

Mrs. J. R. McClure--black silk and mousseline de soie, passementerie of green and gold.

Mrs. Lowry--black velvet en train, gold front; diamonds.

Mrs. Clark Fairbank--pink brocaded silk and garnet velvet, en train.

Mrs. M. M. Slattery--white China silk; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. O. P. Morgan--black velvet en train; diamonds.

Mrs. S. B. Bond--heavy black satin and lace.

Miss Laura Woodworth--pink brocaded silk, square neck, long train.

Miss Alida Woodworth--black lace, sleeveless bodice, trimmed with feather bands.

Miss Ward--red gauze with satin stripes.



...EACH GUEST WAS MOST CORDIALLY WELCOMED

Mrs. Pauley--artistic combination of pale pink and green silk.

Mrs. J. W. Bell--pink silk trimmed with pink roses.

Mrs. T. E. Ellison--cream corded silk, with sweeping train, point lace, and pearl passementerie.

Mrs. C. D. Gorham--pale green faille silk, low corsage edged with green and shell-pink passementerie; pearls and diamonds.

Mrs. Charles Bash--black silk with gold passementerie; diamond ornament.

Mrs. R. S. Robertson, wife of Colonel R. S. Robertson--pale green crepe with silver trimmings.

Mrs. John Evans--pale yellow corded silk, trimmed with black ostrich tips; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. E. T. Williams--gray satin, square neck, demi-train.

Mrs. C. H. Worden--heavy black satin.

Mrs. Hartnett--black lace and jets.

Mrs. Morse--lavender satin, long sweeping train, low corsage; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. McCracken--combination of ecru and brown brocaded satin.

Mrs. Mayhew--blue and white brocaded silk with trimmings of Valenciennes lace.

Mrs. G. W. Seavey--black silk, cream crepe vest.

Mrs. Rorison--black China silk made with V neck and sleeveless bodice; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. Stephen Morris--becoming costume of white.

Mrs. Huston--pale blue silk.

Mrs. William Fleming--light blue gauze with satin stripe over blue silk.

Mrs. W. W. Shryock--handsome costume of brocade.

Mrs. S. C. Lumbard--tan crepe de Chine, trimming of jeweled heliotrope velvet; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. E. C. Rurode--cream India silk, diamonds.

Mrs. Will Pettit--cream brocaded silk.

Miss MacDougal--gray silk, with brocaded trimming, en train; diamonds.

Mrs. Charles Doebler--white crepe de Chine.

Mrs. Rabus--gray crepe, blue velvet, steel passe-menterie.

Mrs. R. G. Thompson--black net, V corsage.

Mrs. John Mohr--black silk and lace.

Mrs. Joseph Jenkinson--red crepe en train.

Mrs. A. J. Detzer--handsome costume of grey silk with lace V neck, en train.

Mrs. F. Randall--cream silk trimmed in swan's-down, décolleté bodice, en train.

## CURLING

One of the winter sports played by some socialites on the lake at Brookside, or the Bass estate, was the Scotch game of curling, which David McKay, manager of the Bass farm, introduced to Fort Wayne. A brief description of the game follows.

Curling is played by sliding circular stones, thirty-six inches in diameter and weighing from thirty to fifty pounds, across an ice course, thirty-eight by seven yards. At each end of the course is a circle fourteen feet in diameter with a tee in the center. The object of the game is to slide a stone across the ice so it stops inside the circle, close to the tee. Competing teams usually number four players. As a player prepares to hurl his stone, his captain (called a skip) directs him either to knock an opponent's stone out of position or to block the approach to the tee with his stone. The other members of the team, equipped with brooms, station themselves along the course in order to sweep away any obstacles which might deflect the course of the stone, being careful not to touch the stone with their brooms. The skips hurl last. To count as a throw, a stone must lie inside the circle. The score is determined by counting the stones nearest the tee. The players wear plaid scarfs and Scottish caps.

On New Year's Day, according to the FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of January 3, 1887,

The members of the Fort Wayne Curling Club met at Brookside Farm to compete for the point medal presented

by the president of the club, David McKay. . . . The competitors were James K. Mann, Thomas Kavanaugh, John Kidd, Fred A. Hull, R. Craik, W. Miller, and James Gillie. The medal was won by John Kidd after a close contest; Thomas Kavanaugh was only one point behind.

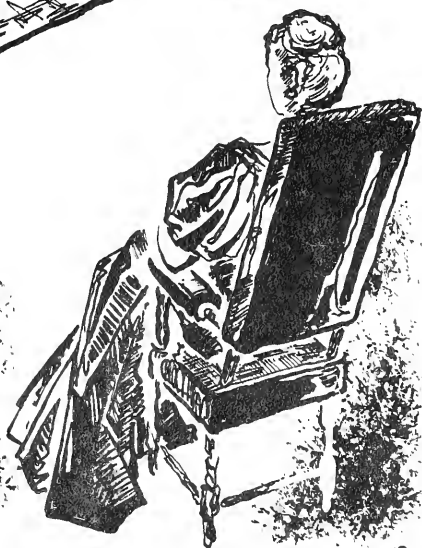
In the afternoon two teams competed for a box of "fine cigars" which was provided by the losers. The team "skipped" by Kavanaugh and Kidd defeated the team headed by Gillie and McKay by a score of thirty-five to eighteen.

## CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Musical societies added culture and recreation to the social life of the period. Among the flourishing amateur musical organizations were the Arion Society, the Saengerbund, and the Musical Society. Many socialites were accomplished musicians. Occasionally the musical groups gave special programs for their members and friends. The operetta Cinderella presented under the auspices of the Musical Society and directed by Mr. Joost was the most ambitious of these programs. The event, which was given at the residence of the Honorable Franklin P. Randall, received an elaborate and laudatory notice in the columns of the DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL, June 11, 1881. Mrs. Frank Welling was cast as Cinderella; the Misses Mary Randall and Mecca Hill, as the Wicked Sisters; Miss Jessie Withers, as the White Bird and the Prince; Miss Schirmeyer, as Angel Mother; the Misses Maggie Dillon, Josie Albert, Gertie Webb, Clara Heilbroner, Birdie Richey, Bertha and Ella Mater, as the Fairy Birds; Ronald Dawson, Bertie Newton, Ursula Graves, Ella Webb, and Frank Maier, as Children in the Home Scene. The orchestra consisted of Mr. Joost, piano; Messrs. Willis Maier, Wilson McDermot, and Herman Freiburger, violins; and Ben Tower, flute. S. R. Alden spoke the prologue.

## WEDDINGS

Weddings played an important part in the social ac-

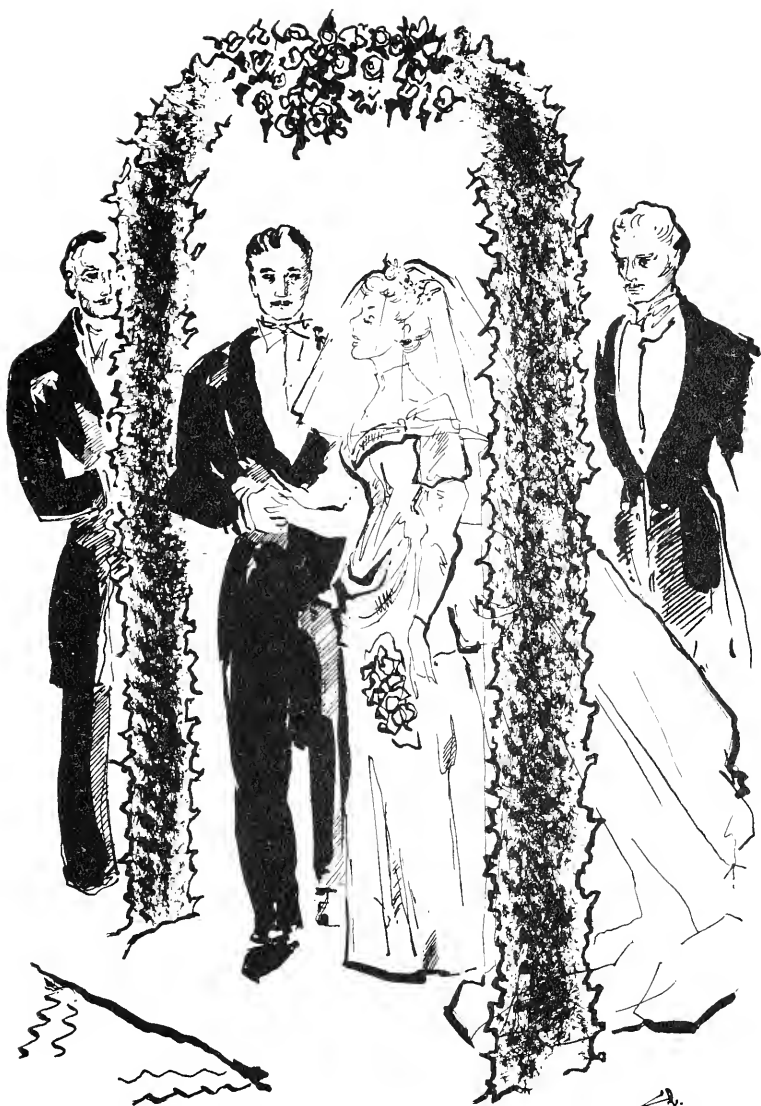


THE OPERETTA "CINDERELLA"...

tivities of the era. Society church weddings were usually elaborate and were solemnized in the presence of many guests, who were admitted by special cards. Eight hundred admission cards were sent out for the Eliza Hanna-Fred J. Hayden wedding at the First Presbyterian Church in 1873; four hundred for the Jessie E. Hanna-Hugh McCulloch Bond wedding in 1884. An organ concert, lasting an hour or more, usually preceded the ceremony. The Wagner and Mendelssohn wedding marches were constants. The church was profusely decorated with flowers, plants, and floral pieces--harps or pyramids--which, at times, were imported from Chicago, Cincinnati, and even Baltimore. During the ceremony the bridal pair often stood under a floral arrangement--an arch, a horseshoe, a ball of carnations, a globe of tube and tea roses. At one wedding a horseshoe was suspended over the aisle, while a Cupid's bow and arrow hung over the altar. Ushers often escorted the bridesmaids to the altar, and the groom ushered the bride's mother to her pew. As the wedding party left the church after the ceremony, little girls scattered flower petals along the aisle.

Usually the bride wore an elaborate, white or cream-colored dress with a long train, and a bridal veil of tulle or lace, fastened with orange blossoms or white roses. Sometimes the front of the dress was an intricate combination of shirrs, puffs, and lace. Most of the guests at church weddings were women, whose gowns attracted almost as much attention as did those of the wedding party. The ladies at the Lowry-Withers wedding were, according to the FORT WAYNE JOURNAL of June 26, 1884, "arrayed in toilettes . . . remarkable for their richness and beauty."

Dresses were floor length, often *décolleté*, with long court trains or shorter demitrains. Bosoms were full, waists tight, skirts full, drawn to the rear, and supported by wire cages or bustles. Although bustles began to disappear in the nineties, the backs of skirts continued full and protruding. Dresses were made of satin, bengaline, crepe de Chine, velvet, mousseline de soie, chiffon, surah, and China silk. Colors were dazzling--white, sea-foam green,



THE BRIDAL PAIR STOOD UNDER A FLORAL ARRANGEMENT..

garnet, poppy-red, yellow, pink, and black. Often the dresses were trimmed with lace, jet beading, or passementerie (braids, cords, gimp, beads). Diamonds, pearls, opals, and other jewels, were worn with these costumes. The FORT WAYNE JOURNAL of June 28, 1892, gave the following list of guests at the Downs-Randall wedding and described their gowns:

Mrs. J. H. Bass--cream silk embossed with crimson roses, point lace flounces, décolleté, court train, diamonds.

Mrs. T. E. Ellison--cream bengaline, duchesse lace, pearl cabochon, court train.

Mrs. Charles McCulloch--sea-foam green satin, duchesse brocaded, ostrich-tip trimmings, court train, décolleté, opals.

Mrs. R. T. McDonald--cream broadcloth brocaded in gold, Russian sable trimmings; diamonds.

Mrs. R. S. Robertson--black silk, jet and gold passementerie.

Mrs. E. C. Rurode--black bengaline, turquoise passementerie, ostrich-tip trimmings; diamonds.

Mrs. W. L. Carnahan--grey crepe de Chine, white embroidered chiffon.

Mrs. Robert Lowry--garnet velvet en train, diamonds.

Mrs. H. G. Olds--grey velvet mousseline de soie shot with iridescent steel ornamentations, en train.

Mrs. D. N. Foster--black velvet and bengaline, jet passementerie and cabochons of jet.

Mrs. Allen Zollars--steel crepe de Chine, mousseline de soie; diamonds.

Mrs. W. S. Bash, poppy-red crepe de Chine, silk lace trimmings.

Mrs. F. J. Hayden, heliotrope guipure lace and net over faille. Dainty clusters of lilacs caught up the lace.

Miss Lida Lowry--blue satin, pearl cabochons, en train.

Miss Clara Zollars, white embroidered mousseline de soie, gold trimming, décolleté.

Miss Louise Robertson, canary-colored China silk,

jet passementerie, with here and there a jet cabochon.

Miss Constance Lombard, pink embroidered chiffon over pink faille, demitrain.

Miss Katharine MacDougal--white chiffon over white silk, ostrich feathers, demitrain, décolleté; diamonds.

Miss Louise Carnahan--yellow crepe, satin fourreau trimmed in white chiffon, décolleté.

Miss Josephine Edgerton--combination toilette of black and red.

Miss Georgia Lombard--white crepe de Chine, olive-green silk trimmings; pearl pendants.

Miss Anna Bond--Grecian costume of cream India silk, cincture of gold, gold passementerie.

Miss Grace Bass--canary-colored crepe, chiffon caught up with yellow forget-me-nots.

Miss Celia Higgins, cream India silk, chiffon, and white carnations.

Miss Anna Siboni, satin stripe broche, black gauze, décolleté.

Miss Theresa Swinney, black China silk, jet trimmings.

Miss Helen Brenton--black net over surah, jet passementerie.

Miss Hattie Fowler--poppy-red China silk, embroidered chiffon.

Miss Merica Hoagland--a combination costume. Skirt of white Valenciennes lace, fourreau of orange faille trimmed in point lace; diamonds.

Some of the gowns worn at the wedding of Miss Jessie E. Hanna, granddaughter of Samuel Hanna, to Hugh McCulloch Bond, son of Charles D. Bond, president of the Fort Wayne National Bank, were imported from Chicago and New York. The flowers matched the dresses, and the boutonnieres of the ushers matched the bouquets of their ladies.

A fashionable wedding was generally followed by an elaborate banquet and reception at the bride's home, which was profusely decorated with flowers. One of the local caterers, Mr. Seidel or Mr. Wieman, usually had charge of the refreshments, but on one occasion a Chicago caterer

was engaged. Reineke's Orchestra generally furnished the dinner music and played for the dancing, which often continued till morning. Sometimes the guests contributed to the entertainment. At the McDonald-Holliday wedding the guests were entertained with a very graceful pas seul by Miss Lottie Lowry, a Highland fling by Miss Annie Robertson . . . a rollicking Irish lilt by Master George Bullard, and solos by Miss Jessie Hanna, Miss Carrie Graves, and Mrs. Robert Lowry. Before leaving on the wedding trip, the bride sang "Slumber On."

Since the bride's family provided the wedding, the guests were expected to make costly gifts. The FORT WAYNE GAZETTE of June 6, 1873, lists the following gifts and donors for the Nellie Brandriff-Alf Lukens wedding:

Complete silver tea set, satin gloss, gold washed, monogrammed--Samuel T. Hanna; elegantly bound edition of the Holy Bible--H. N. Goodwin; silver fruit and sugar spoons, lined in gold, in handsome case--William T. Jenison; J. G. Holland's COMPLETE WORKS--F. E. Hanson of Lafayette; elegant bronze clock--George J. E. Mayer; silver fruit and sugar spoons, lined with gold, monogrammed --Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Biddle; silver card receiver--Mrs. Horace Hanna; silver cake basket, satin gloss, gold finish --Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Prescott; silver dinner caster, satin gloss, gold finish, and cut-glass cake dish combined, monogrammed--Oliver S. Hanna; silver soap stand--Miss Margie Ruthrauff; Oliver Goldsmith's COMPLETE WORKS (four volumes) and the DAILY GAZETTE for one year--McNiece and Alexander; Charles Knight's HALF HOURS WITH THE BEST AUTHORS (three volumes)--S. E. Morss; elegant chromo--Ed Prescott; oil painting and toilet sets--Miss Clara Goodwin; GEMS OF DUTCH ART (very fine)--Mrs. Jesse L. Williams; silver card basket--Miss Martha L. Hough; "Song of the Sower"--Miss Laura Woodworth; family portraits--Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Brandriff; cut-glass and silver celery dish--Miss Fannie Probasco.

The account of the Hamroad-Hattersley wedding in the FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of October 28, 1880, contains the following list of gifts:

The groom's gift to the bride was an elegant set of cameo jewelry. Mr. Hamroad, father of the bride, gave ten dollars in cash; Mrs. Hamroad, a sewing machine; Sam Elsner, of Chicago, an elegant black satin delaine dolman; Mrs. Elsner, sister of the bride, a dozen solid silver spoons, engraved; little Freddie Elsner, a handsome cloak. The parents of the groom presented an elegant chamber set; the sister of the groom, a bronze clock; and the brother, Byron, a handsome chamber set.

For the Lillie Morse-R. T. McDonald wedding at Angola, a special train of the Jackson and Saginaw Railroad was chartered to take the Fort Wayne guests to Angola and back.

Society weddings were flamboyantly reported in the local press. The FORT WAYNE GAZETTE of June 5, 1873, brought the following account of the Eliza Hanna-Frederick J. Hayden wedding:

The wealth and fashion of Fort Wayne were well represented in the First Presbyterian Church last evening at the marriage of Frederick J. Hayden of Coburg, Canada, and Miss Eliza Hanna, daughter of the late Judge Hanna. Long before the hour appointed for the ceremony, Charles F. W. Meyer entertained the large audience with some beautiful selections from the grand organ. At the appointed time, the magnificent tones of the organ, pealing out the "Lohengrin Wedding March," and the low murmur which ran around the room betokened the arrival of the bridal party. In a twinkling all rules of etiquette were set at defiance; every neck was stretched, and every face turned toward the doors to see the bridal party enter. First came the groom, accompanying Mrs. Eliza Hanna; he was followed by Hugh Hanna with the bride on his arm. Then came the attendants--Mrs. Stewart, wife of Colonel Stewart, of Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Horace H. Hanna; Oliver S. Hanna; and J. Thomas Hanna of this city. After the bridal party had arrived at the altar, the loud, triumphant tones of the organ were changed to low, sweet notes, which continued during the ceremony, ceasing only for the prayer. The solemn and beautiful marriage rite of the Presbyterian

Church was then performed by the Reverend D. W. Moffatt; the happy pair made the responses in clear tones, audible in all parts of the church. The single ring ceremony was used. After the minister had pronounced the twain husband and wife, Mr. Hayden imprinted a kiss on the bride's forehead, and all was over. The beautiful tones of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" then filled the church as Mr. and Mrs. Hayden, followed by the attendants and relatives, passed down the aisle and left the church.

The bride was elegantly attired in Paris muslin, with overskirt, cut with a train, and elaborately trimmed with Valenciennes lace. Her hair hung in curls and was ornamented with natural flowers; a white veil hung gracefully over her shoulders.

The pulpit was beautifully decorated with rare plants and flowers. Their fragrance filled the church with delicate odors.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, about one hundred relatives and intimate friends repaired to the palatial residence of the bride's mother on East Lewis Street, where the reception was held. Congratulations were freely offered and accepted; magnificent entertainment was provided, and a large number of appropriate and costly gifts were given in honor of the occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayden left last evening for an extended wedding tour, bearing with them the best wishes of a large circle of friends for a pleasant journey through life. The affair was one of the most recherche which ever took place in this city. About eight hundred invitations to the church were issued, and all who were present were delighted.

Another brilliant society event, according to the local papers of January 28, 1892, was the home wedding of Miss Mary Randall to Dr. J. C. Downs, of Danbury, Connecticut, at the residence of her parents, ex-Mayor and Mrs. Franklin P. Randall. The great house was splendidly decorated with tropical plants and flowers, many from Mr. Randall's private greenhouse. Evergreens were wound along the banisters of the main staircase. In the west drawing room, which was set apart for the ceremony, the decorators had



A RECEPTION WAS HELD...

21

constructed a low platform for the bridal couple. Above it hung a lover's bow of evergreens and flowers. Flanking the platform and clustered about the room, were rare plants, among them orange trees, bearing ripe oranges. The house was ablaze with light from cellar to garret all evening.

The guests, who had all arrived by eight o'clock, formed a gorgeous pageant by reason of the artistic and colorful gowns of the ladies, many of which were décolleté.

At half-past eight Reineke's Orchestra struck up the wedding march, and the bridal party began to file down the stairway. The ribbon bearers--the Misses Lille Pyke, Bessie Baldwin, Helen Moffat, Mary Wells, and Grace White--assisted by the ushers--Messrs. Robert Carnahan, Edward White, Harold Joss, Noble Olds, and Robert Millard--opened the way for the bridal party through the assembled guests.

The Reverend Alexander W. Seabrease, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, led the procession to the west drawing room, where he took his position on the bridal platform. He was followed by the groom, attended by Dr. Fred Downs of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Next came the groomsmen--Messrs. Frank W. Morse, Montford W. Fay, George E. Randall of New York City, and Charles Arnold of Huntington--followed by the bridesmaids--Miss Eugenia Joyes of Louisville, Kentucky; Miss Carrie Malott of Indianapolis; Miss Elizabeth Arnold of Huntington; and Miss Bettie Adams of Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Two pretty, little flower girls, Agnes Fairbank and Ruth Randall, in dainty princess dresses of white India silk, carrying large clusters of pink and white carnations, accompanied the maid of honor, Miss Florence Malott, of Indianapolis. The bride, Miss Mary Randall, was escorted by her father.

The bride and groom took their positions under the large lover's bow. Amid these beautiful surroundings, in the presence of friends and relatives, they heard and spoke the solemn and impressive words that made them man and wife.

After the ceremony the merrymaking began, and the

old mansion rang with happy laughter. The presents, many of solid silver, and valued at between \$1,000 and \$1,500 covered two beds, the bureaus, the shelves, and the stands in one of the largest of the upper rooms. Caterer Seidel served a sumptuous wedding banquet.

A notable Catholic wedding was that of Miss Mary E. Fleming to Dr. Leon J. Willien. The DAILY FORT WAYNE SENTINEL of February 5, 1874, gave the following account:

The marriage of Miss Mary E. Fleming, daughter of our well-known citizen, the Honorable William Fleming, and Dr. Leon J. Willien, of Terre Haute, was solemnized at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception this morning. For some time before the marriage ceremony, the Cathedral was filled with numerous friends of the bride and groom. At precisely ten o'clock the wedding cortege drew up at the Cathedral door. As the wedding party approached the sanctuary, Edward Spoth played the "Wedding March" by Mendelssohn and continued the delightful strains until the party reached the altar. The beautiful and impressive marriage rites of the Catholic Church were then solemnized by the Right Reverend Julian Benoit. The bride was given away by her father.

After the marriage ceremony, High Mass was celebrated. The choir, consisting of Miss Agatha Lau and Mrs. A. Fox, sopranos; Miss Sophia Lau, contralto; Edward Lang, tenor; A. Weber, basso, sang Farmer's "Mass in B-flat."

The bride was elegantly attired in a dress of rich and costly lavender silk, en train, trimmed with white satin and fringe. The immaculate veil of exquisite Brussels lace extended in ample and graceful folds from the coronet of orange blossoms over the whole train. Neither jewels nor ornaments were worn, save the coronet of orange blossoms, nor could they have added aught to the lovely appearance of the beautiful bride, whose distinguished bearing was the subject of especial remark. The groom was in full dress of conventional black with white vest and gloves and bore himself with dignity and ease.

After Mass, the bridal party with a few invited friends

repaired to the palatial residence of the bride's father. There, at the well-laden table, congratulations were extended, and the happy pair was bidden Godspeed through life. The presents were numerous and the most costly ever bestowed at a similar occasion in this city. No cards were issued for admission to the Cathedral.

An elaborate Jewish home wedding took place in 1892, when Miss Hattie Rosenthal was married to Louis Frankel, proprietor of the Globe Clothing House. The FORT WAYNE JOURNAL of March 9, 1892, described the wedding in detail.

When the wedding march from Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream" was played by Reineke's Orchestra, there was a hush in the merry conversation, and all eyes were turned to see the bridal procession. In the large double parlors beneath a luxuriant floral bower, Rabbi Hirschberg of the Hebrew synagogue, stood to receive the bridal party. Edward Rosenthal of Chicago, master of ceremonies, assisted by George W. Heller, led the stately march. Sigmund Frankel of Chicago, brother of the groom, escorted Mrs. S. Hamburger of Cumberland, Maryland, aunt of the groom. Dr. and Mrs. I. M. Rosenthal, parents of the bride, appeared next. The bride and groom slowly marched to the large bay window and halted beneath a bower of roses. The ushers, Messrs. Maurice Rosenthal, Manuel Heller, Leon Klein, and Joseph Freiburger preceded the maid of honor, Miss Minnie Rosenthal, sister of the groom, and the bridesmaids, the Misses Nora Heller, Reada Wolf, Hattie Strass, and Ray Rauh. The bridal party divided and formed a semicircle--the men on the left, the women on the right, and the bride and groom in the center. The impressive ceremony was pronounced, and two loving hearts were united for life.

Before the bridal party separated, the bride and groom were showered with congratulations. The guests then repaired to the dining room . . . where Caterer Seidel and his efficient corps of waiters served the following wedding feast:



THE GUESTS THEN REPAIRED TO THE DINING ROOM...

Shell Oysters  
Oysters á la Rockaway  
Soup

---

Fish  
California Salmon, Trout with Sweet and  
Sour Sauce  
Parisienne Potatoes

---

Hot Roast  
Roast Turkey and Oyster Dressing  
French Green Peas  
Creamed Potatoes  
Salted Almonds                  Roman Punch

---

Entree  
Fillet of Beef                  Sauce Mushroom  
Olives                          Radishes  
Jelly  
Coleslaw    Lobster Salad    Potato Salad

---

Ice Cream  
Ice Cream, Neapolitan Style  
Assorted Small Cakes  
Layer Cake  
Fruits, Nuts, and Raisins

---

Coffee with Cream

Reineke's Orchestra provided music during the serving of this elaborate menu and then played for the dancing which lasted until morning.

Mr. Louis Frankel and his bride left early this morn-



A SHOWER OF RICE, OLD SHOES ...

ing on the Wabash Railroad. A shower of rice, old shoes, and best wishes attended their departure. They will visit New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, Old Point Comfort, Washington, Cumberland, and Pittsburgh before returning home on April 15, when they will be at home at 187 West Berry Street. Their home will be . . . beautified by the numerous and costly presents they have received.

The most interesting and most elaborate of the Jewish weddings of the time was the double wedding of the Misses Flora and Celia Redelsheimer to Bernard Levy of Moberly, Missouri, and Benjamin Rothschild of Fort Wayne, respectively. The FORT WAYNE DAILY SENTINEL of October 5, 1871, gave substantially the following account of the affair:

Long before the appointed hour hundreds of representatives of female loveliness had assembled in and around the synagogue. At precisely half past four, the carriages containing the bridal party drew up in front of the synagogue. First to enter were the father and mother of the brides; next, the maternal grandmother and her youngest son, himself a man of middle age. Then came the two bridal pairs, followed by the eldest sister and her husband, Leopold Levy. The attendant bridesmaids and groomsmen--Miss Bertha Baer and Mr. Henry Rothschild, Miss Frances Falk and Mr. Louis Newberger, Miss Sallie Redelsheimer and Mr. L. Kreilsheim, and Miss Edith Redelsheimer and Mr. Julius Redelsheimer concluded the procession. As the party appeared at the door, the organ sent forth the beautiful strain of a gentle Hebrew melody. The father, uncle, and male relatives took their stand to the left of the altar; the bridal couple stood immediately in front; the mother, grandmother, and sister were on the right. The other attendants, directly behind, formed a double semicircle.

The wedding service was read partly in Hebrew and partly in German. Before the vows were spoken, Rabbi Rubin offered a prayer and briefly addressed the brides and grooms. The double ring ceremony was used.

The Rabbi then pronounced each couple man and wife by the divine Mosaic Law of God, declared them man and wife by the laws of worldly legislature, declared them one

by their chosen wishes, and concluded with the priestly benediction: "Blessed be your coming in; blessed be your going out. May the Lord bless you; may His countenance light your paths and grant you His heavenly peace and mercy evermore. Amen." The Rabbi then stepped forward and said, "I now congratulate you," giving in turn his hand to each of the couples.

The whole party then went to Ewing's Hall, where for one hour and a half they received the congratulations of their friends. The spacious hall was filled to overflowing. At seven o'clock everyone sat down to a splendid banquet, where all the substantial delicacies the season affords had been provided by the popular caterer, Wieman. Wines flowed freely, and toasts were the order of the hour. Many congratulatory telegrams and letters were received. From across the blue waters of the Atlantic, far over in the great Prussian Empire came a message from the maternal great-grandmother, now over one hundred years old, humbly invoking the blessing of God on the bridal couples. At nine o'clock the tables were cleared, and sweet music cheered the hearts of all. Most engaged in splendid dances until a late hour.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Wedding anniversaries also lent interest to the social seasons. They were usually celebrated with music, refreshments, and dancing. Sometimes religious services were conducted. The society columns of the day regularly recorded the guests and the lists of gifts with their donors. On November 14, 1877, Judge and Mrs. Allen Zollars celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary by a reception, which the FORT WAYNE GAZETTE described as follows:

Last evening the very pleasant residence of Judge and Mrs. Zollars was the scene of a most pleasant gathering of old friends, who were invited to join with the host and hostess in celebrating their tenth wedding anniversary. The parlors were beautifully decorated with wreaths and flowers. Suspended from above the folding doors between the

parlors was a beautiful wedding bell of white flowers. . . . The evening was spent in conversation. A sumptuous repast was served. Towards the latter part of the evening, Mrs. Lowry, wife of Judge Robert Lowry, kindly consented to sing and play.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lowry, Mr. and Mrs. P. Randall, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Bell, J. D. Sarnighausen, Superintendent and Mrs. O'Rourke, Mayor Zollinger and Mrs. Zollinger, Mr. and Mrs. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. George Brackenridge and daughter, the Reverend Dr. James R. Stone and the Reverend H. G. Mendenhall, Judge Sinclair and the Misses Sinclair, Mrs. Joseph Brackenridge, wife of Judge Brackenridge, Mrs. D. B. Strobe, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Sweet, Dr. and Mrs. Williamson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Goodwin, Miss Humphrey, Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Zollars, Messrs. W. G. and Thomas Colerick and Miss Colerick, Sheriff C. A. Munson, and Colonel Robertson.

Several golden wedding anniversaries were celebrated in the seventies. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Dykes, who were born in England and came to Fort Wayne in 1834, were surprised by their children and grandchildren with a golden wedding celebration on September 18, 1877. On April 13 of the next year, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Anderson celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, at which the Reverend D. W. Moffat and the Reverend James R. Stone addressed the couple and the guests. Mr. Stone pronounced a benediction.

## ART WORK

In the eighties the society women of Fort Wayne did art work--oil paintings and decorated screens. The most elaborate of these screens had three panels: the first with violets and early spring flowers; the second with blue June skies, golden lilies, sweet peas, clover, and roses; the third with the dun skies of November, and a medley of scarlet maple leaves, red rose leaves, asters, yellow daisies, and sprays of cardinal flowers.

Such work was sometimes sold at an art exchange to



.GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES WERE CELEBRATED.

provide pin money for the ladies. The FORT WAYNE DAILY SENTINEL of September 16, 1881, reported such an art exchange, adding a curious antifeminism aside:

Many society ladies who have looked forward to the opening of the Art Exchange feel much gratified with the result. Some of the most prominent ladies in social circles have contributed. Fair fingers have been busy the last three weeks manufacturing some dainty bit of work that now graces the bazaar, proof conclusive of what woman can do if she does not vainly aspire to the dark and treacherous paths of her professional brothers. This bazaar will probably afford many a neat little sum for pin money, highly appreciated by the gentler sex.

Mrs. C. M. Dawson has just completed some handsome pieces for the Art Exchange. The prettiest, perhaps, is a piece of tambour lace with an oil painting of a duck flying across the water--a very difficult subject and exceedingly well executed. Equally lovely is a peacock-blue felt table scarf, handsomely finished in scarlet and gold. On one end, painted in oil, are graceful sprays of goldenrod; on the other, dogwood blossoms. The whole is unusually striking.

## CONCLUSION

The preceding pages show that Fort Wayne had its Gilded Age, characterized by a flamboyant and often crude display of wealth. Fortunately the social outlook that produced this Gilded Age is a thing of the past and now calls forth a tolerant and good-humored smile.

## GLOSSARY

The following terms describe little-known fabrics and fashions of the seventies, eighties, and nineties.

BENGALINE----A corded fabric with the cords running across the material, made of silk, silk and wool, or silk and cotton.

BROCHE----A fabric of silk, combining plain and pile weave, the pile weave forming a raised design.

CABOCHON----A stone cut in convex form, highly polished but not faceted, drilled from both sides so that it could be sewed on cloth.

COQUELICOT---Poppy red.

DELAINE----A kind of light woolen or cotton and woolen dress fabric.

DEMITRAIN----A short train.

DOLMAN----A woman's cloak with capelike pieces instead of sleeves.

DUCHESSE LACE----A modern Flemish bobbin lace in which flowers and floral sprays, made separately, are united by slender threads.

EN TRAIN----With a train.

FOURREAU----A tight-fitting dress.

GUIPURE----A lace of heavy material and large pattern.

MECHLIN LACE----A dainty bobbin lace made at Mechlin, Belgium.

MOUSSELINE DE SOIE----A soft thin silk fabric with a weave like that of muslin.

OTTOMAN----A corded fabric of silk or of silk and wool.

PASSEMENTERIE----Trimmings of braids, cords, gimp, beads, or tinsel.

SURAH----A soft, twilled silk.

VALENCIENNES LACE----A type of fine bobbin lace with a diamond-shaped mesh, formerly made at Valenciennes, France.









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